

## 2021 Report

# IUCN SSC Seed Conservation Specialist Group



#### CO-CHAIR

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#### CO-CHAIR

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#### DEPUTY CHAIR

**Dustin Wolkis**  
National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kalaheo, Hawai'i, US

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS

100

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: IUCN Seed Conservation Specialist Group

Twitter: @IUCN\_Seeds

Website: <https://seedconservationsg.org/>

#### Mission statement

The mission of the Seed Conservation Specialist Group (SCSG) is to promote seed conservation by providing a network for knowledge sharing in different ecosystems around the world, and aiding in prioritisation, capacity building, and development of best practices.

#### Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we expect that the network established by SCSG in the last quadrennium will continue to identify gaps, not only in expertise, but also in the seed conservation of vulnerable species. We are intentionally prioritising diversity and expanding our efforts to encourage improvements to seed banking processes in underrepresented IUCN statutory regions of Africa, Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia, Meso- and South America, Oceania, and East Asia. Through gap assessments, guidelines for seed conservation, other publications, and the growth of our network, we hope that our efforts will contribute towards at least a 15% increase in species from each ecological region being conserved for the future through effective seed banking.

#### Targets 2021–2025

##### ASSESS

**T-006** Complete and publish a regional and topical gap analysis of seed conservation expertise.

**T-007** Assess Red List data on ex situ actions for plant species (prioritising those with urgent needs), and work with taxonomic and regional plant Specialist Groups/Red List Authorities to improve inclusion of seed conservation in Red List assessments.

**T-008** Improve the existing Botanic Gardens Conservation International PlantSearch database by seeking SCSG members to help update data.

**T-009** Using the Botanic Gardens Conservation International PlantSearch database, conduct a gap analysis on taxonomic representation in seed conservation.

**T-010** Assess the feasibility and potential for a global database on seed conservation research, best practices and needs, prioritising threatened species.

**T-011** Increase visibility of SSC by including SSC affiliation in relevant publications by SCSG members.

##### ACT

**T-012** Create IUCN Guidelines on Seed Conservation in English, linking to existing resources created by SCSG member and other organisations.

**T-013** Begin translating the Guidelines on Seed Conservation into other languages.

##### NETWORK

**T-001** Actively recruit SCSG members, especially from underrepresented regions and Key Biodiversity Areas, to achieve global membership.

**T-002** Increase engagement of our members by creating Seed Conservation Specialist Group (SCSG) committees for quadrennium targets.

**T-003** Explore fundraising options and develop a plan to start a Non-Governmental Organisation.

**T-004** Work with the Plant Conservation Committee to identify a Focal Point for Seed Conservation in seed-plant and ex situ related Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities.

**T-005** Expand the Seed Conservation Directory of Expertise to include underrepresented regions.

##### COMMUNICATE

**T-014** Create the SCSG Newsletter.

**T-015** Improve the SCSG website.

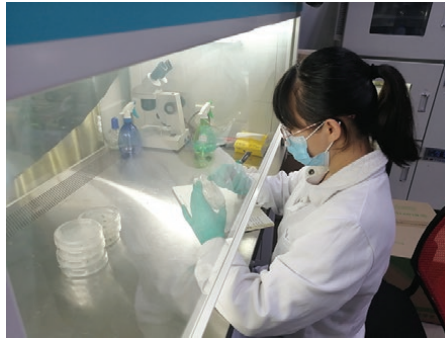
**T-016** Increase the SCSG web and social media presence.

**T-017** Offer annual SCSG Membership meetings within broader scientific conferences, or as virtual meetings.

Seed capsules of pua kala (*Argemone glauca*), a native Hawaiian plant  
Photo: Marian Chau



Guangxi University masters student Rong Huang collecting *Ficus* seed germination data  
Photo: Rong Huang



Emily Saling harvesting *Polyscias racemosa* fruit in McBryde Garden, National Tropical Botanical Garden  
Photo: Dustin Wolkis



## Activities and results 2021

### ASSESS

#### Research activities

T-006 (KSR 5)

**Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation:** 0

**Result description:** In 2021, we developed analytical expertise and a core operations strategy for the project and finalised the experimental design for a survey on seed conservation expertise.

T-011 (KSR 5)

**Number of scientific publications about species research that acknowledge SSC affiliation:** 13

**Result description:** In 2021, we tracked 13 publications in which authors provided SCSG and SSC affiliation. Although we have reached our goal of 10 publications, we will continue to promote and track this goal throughout the quadrennium.

### NETWORK

#### Membership

T-001 (KSR 2)

**Number of SSC members recruited:** 0

**Result description:** In 2021, we did an analysis of SSC and SCSG membership by statutory regions, identified regional membership gaps, and devised a recruitment strategy to enhance diversity and representation within our membership.

#### Synergy

T-002 (KSR 3)

**Number of committees:** 0

**Result description:** In 2021, we developed a committee framework aligned with the components of the species conservation cycle and recruited a core volunteer group from last quadrennium's membership. In 2022, we will expand the committees from the new quadrennium's membership.

T-004 (KSR 3)

**Number of Seed Conservation focal points designated:** 0

**Result description:** In 2021, we coordinated with Cátia Canteiro, Plant and Fungi Conservation Coordinator, and made plans to host a webinar in 2022 for other SSC Specialist Groups, to recruit Focal Points for Seed Conservation.

T-005 (KSR 3)

**Number of new countries represented in the directory:** 0

**Result description:** In 2021, we established a framework for new people to join the Seed Conservation Directory of Expertise and made this publicly available. In 2022, we will conduct a targeted outreach campaign to improve representation and diversity within the directory.

T-005 (KSR 3)

**Number of new directory participants:** 0

**Result description:** In 2021, we established a framework for new people to join the Seed Conservation Directory of Expertise and made this publicly available. In 2022, we will conduct a targeted outreach campaign to improve representation and diversity within the directory.

### COMMUNICATE

#### Communication

T-014 (KSR 12)

**Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced:** 1

**Result description:** In 2021, we published the inaugural issue of the SCSG Newsletter on our website and conducted an outreach campaign on social media. The Newsletter page on our website has been viewed over 200 times. We also translated it into Spanish and Portuguese.

T-015 (KSR 12)

**Maintain number of annual visitors to the SCSG website:** 1,162

**Result description:** In 2021, we had 1,162 unique visitors to the SCSG website.

T-015 (KSR 12)

**Maintain number of annual page views on the SCSG website:** 2,241

**Result description:** In 2021, we had 2,441 page views on the SCSG website.

T-015 (KSR 12)

**Add at least 1 new resource page or showcased project on the SCSG website:** 1

**Result description:** In 2021, we created new content by adding a Newsletter page under our Resources on the SCSG website (<https://seedconservationsg.org/newsletter>).

T-016 (KSR 12)

**Increase in social media followers:** 84

**Result description:** In 2021, we added 49 members in our Facebook Group and 35 followers on our Twitter account.

### Acknowledgements

Botanical Gardens Conservation International: we thank BGCI for serving as the Secretariat for SCSG, hosting our Directory of Expertise and contributing staff time. National Tropical Botanical Garden: we thank the National Tropical Botanical Garden for providing staff time in support of SCSG targets. Guangxi University: we thank Guangxi University for contributing staff time towards the SCSG targets. Kalehua Seed Conservation Consulting: we thank Kalehua Seed Conservation Consulting for contributing staff time towards the SCSG targets.

### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 17

**Geographic regions:** 17 Global

**Actions during 2021:**

Assess: 2 (KSR 5)

Network: 5 (KSR 2, 3)

Communicate: 5 (KSR 12)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**

